

CELEBRATING THE JEFFERSON
AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST'S
150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ located in my hometown of Cookeville, Tennessee. What began as a small number of Christians meeting in 1871 is now a strong institution providing generations with a place to practice their faith and be a part of a supportive community.

In their early years, the church shared a building with a Methodist church on what today is known as Lowe Avenue. In 1874, the congregation moved to a new building north of the county square on the corner of Washington and Freeze Street. In 1908, to accommodate their growing congregation, the church built a new place of worship on Broad Street and took the name Broad Street Church of Christ.

In 1909, seeing the need and benefit of higher education, Jere Whitson and other members of the Broad Street congregation led the founding of the University of Dixie, commonly called Dixie College and now known as Tennessee Technological University. The school currently has an enrollment of over 10,000 students and offers a wide variety of degrees at different levels from eight academic schools and colleges. I am proud to be an alumnus from this university and take pride in their founding and traditions.

As the area grew, the Broad Street Church of Christ congregation moved to plant other congregations in the area. They acquired land, supported construction of new church buildings, and identified members of Broad Street who were willing to be the initial members of the new congregations. These church plants are still active today. As the Broad Street building aged, the members decided in 1962 it was time to move south to the current location at 521 South Jefferson.

Today, the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ, led by the ministry team of Andy Brewster as the pulpit minister, Evan Burns as associate minister, Jesse Bates as youth minister, and Bo Perez as the Spanish-language minister, continues its commitment to mission work worldwide. Currently, it supports 30 ministers, 40 congregations, and a bible school in Nicaragua by providing humanitarian aid and training. They support nine preachers and a preaching school in Panama and the San Blas Islands. Jefferson Avenue also is committed to Healing Hands International and their work in developing countries, providing access to clean water and medical supplies. They continue to spread the word of God throughout the world through support of World Christian Broadcasting as well as Gospel Chariot Ministries who offer mobile evangelistic teams.

The Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ is also making a difference here at home. When Gatlinburg Church of Christ lost its building to the 2016 wildfires, Jefferson Avenue was moved to assist in the rebuilding of their congregation. In March of 2020, when tornados in Cookeville resulted in tragic loss of life, Jefferson Avenue served as one of many distribution centers for emergency supplies. It also helped with direct assistance to many in need.

Christian organizations like The Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ are the bedrock of our communities in Middle Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I would like you to join me in honoring and congratulating the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ for 150 years of dedication and commitment to spreading the gospel right here at home and abroad.

RECOGNIZING THE BUFFALO
STATE COLLEGE
SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor of my own alma mater, Buffalo State College, to recognize 150 years of education and service to the Western New York Community.

Buffalo State College, a member of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, opened in 1871 as the Buffalo Normal School to train teachers for the area's growing public school system. Now the largest comprehensive four-year college in the SUNY system, Buffalo State educates over 9,000 undergraduate and graduate students each year. In addition to their renown Special Education program, the school offers 79 undergraduate majors, 11 post baccalaureate teacher certification programs, and 64 graduate programs.

Education is perhaps one of life's greatest gifts and for the past 150 years, Buffalo State College has committed to providing access to quality public higher education, giving a countless number of students the opportunity for engaged and applied learning. As an alumnus myself, I have seen first-hand just how great of an institution Buffalo State really is. Its ability to improve and evolve each year with ever changing educational practices deserves the highest honor.

Buffalo State is known for its strong community connections and commitment to life-long learning. Graduates become scholars, leaders, and global citizens. The educational community encompasses a diverse range of students and faculty. It is this commitment to diversity and inclusivity that has made Buffalo State into the institution it is today. This diversity creates a learning environment where all people are welcome and helps to foster the growth of a knowledgeable, understanding community.

It is attributes like this that have enabled Buffalo State to become a pristine institution within the Western New York Community for many years. I sincerely congratulate the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Buffalo State College on being a part of the school's storied history, and I look forward to seeing how Buffalo State continues to grow and develop throughout the future. Go Bengals.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF 9/11
VICTIMS ON THE 20TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, as we honor the loved ones lost 20 years ago.

The horrific events that unfolded that day claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans and forever impacted many more. The senseless terrorist attacks that took place in New York City, Washington, D.C., and a field in Pennsylvania fundamentally altered our nation. Commercial airliners were weaponized, our Pentagon attacked, and the World Trade Center Towers fell. Yet, in one of America's darkest hours, Americans were united by God, heroism and compassion.

As we take a moment to commemorate the great losses our nation suffered 20 years ago, we also continue to be inspired by the raw strength and resilience displayed by our great nation in the grief and aftermath. To this day, America's fortitude continues to set an international example, even during trying times.

While this day is still difficult and we cannot bring back those precious American lives that were tragically lost by the brutal attacks, we must never forget their sacrifice and those that protect our freedom. I commend the participants of Lake Havasu City's 9/11 Rededication Ceremony for honoring the memory of the Americans lost on the twentieth anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 attacks.

May God continue to comfort the families who lost loved ones and may God bless the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEEL
HAJRA'S 11 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE ANN ARBOR AREA COM-
MUNITY FOUNDATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neel Hajra, the outgoing CEO of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His significant contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Mr. Hajra came to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation in 2011 and became CEO in 2015. He is a two-time graduate of the University of Michigan who started his career as an attorney with the Ford Motor Company. During a sabbatical from that job, he developed a love for community and the nonprofit sector. He later took a job at Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW), where he remained for nine years before joining the Foundation.

As CEO of the Community Foundation, his determination to create positive community change is infectious. Among his numerous successful endeavors includes establishing a scholarship program that increased graduation rates for underserved students, and launching a resilient support system for Washtenaw

County nonprofits so that the foundation can help them thrive. Years after his passion for the nonprofit sector was sparked, Mr. Hajra continues to show his dedication to community through his work. Even as a busy CEO, Mr. Hajra teaches courses in nonprofit policy and management to the next generation of leaders at the Gerald R. Ford School for Public Policy. The impact of his work in our community will be felt for years to come.

Mr. Hajra was born and raised in Washtenaw County and continues to serve his hometown as a vice chair for the Council of Michigan Foundations and as a member of the Washtenaw County Board of Health. He is the recipient of two prestigious national awards: the Aspen Institute Fellowship for Emerging Nonprofit Leaders and the American Express NGen Fellowship. He resides in Ann Arbor with his wife Lisa and their three children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Neel Hajra for an exemplary decade of dedicated service to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. He has effectively served the Ann Arbor community and has enhanced the nonprofit field in Washtenaw County and beyond. I join with Neel's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my best wishes to him in his new role as CEO of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, where he will be improving the health of Michigan residents through grant awards and professional support.

TWENTY YEARS THROUGHOUT THE TEARS—IN MEMORY OF 9/11

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poetic tribute in memory of the heroes and innocents lost on the 20th anniversary of 9/11 at The World Trade Center penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

TWENTY YEARS THROUGHOUT THE TEARS (by Albert Carey Caswell)

Twenty years throughout the tears
It was twenty years ago this day,
what happened here upon our hearts which weighs
All in our tears which flow each day
All in what our prayers have come to say
As we stop to ponder all the pain and woe it's made
The kind which only seems to grow only
Heaven can allay
When, we reunite with our loved ones one fine day
As on this day that we stop to remember,
what all happened here on the darkest of September's
When, we lost all of our loved ones as Towers fell down below
Watching all of those scenes from hell we'd come to know
As their most courageous hearts to new heights so rose
What seems like just yesterday,
still remains 20 years later all in our pain and woe
As we teach our children well about all of those
Those innocents and heroes of 9/11 who up to heaven rose
The Men and Women up in the Towers
The magnificent Fire Fighters and Police
who chose to fight in the darkest of hours

As it been twenty years of heartbreak and tears for all of us and our's
When, all of our loved ones went away
On bended knee throughout the years oh how for them we've prayed,
wishing but to with them one more day
When, something or song reminds us of them as the tears come our way
As we give thanks and praise to all of those heroes for what they gave
Against such evil wrought on that day
God bless those Heroes At Ground Zero heroically fought and stayed
Teaching us all about faith and glory,
teaching us all about their courage and selflessness as was their story
When, from out of all this pain and heartache came such Gotham Glory
As we watched Fire Fighters and Police,
running up the towers towards sure death in disbelief
To save precious lives all because of their selfless belief
Mothers, Fathers, Sisters, Brothers, Parents and Grandparents and friends,
we so loved in our hearts until the end
Watching all those innocents and heroes dying right before our eyes crying
And for all those children who had to grow up without moms or dads,
and lost the best friends they'll ever have
Not to watch them grow up to be everything they hoped to be
No one to read them stories at night to sleep
No one to explain or nurture them of the meaning of life so very deep
Or on Christmas or Hanukkah to share their love all in such joy so sweet
Or High School graduations,
or walk them down the aisle on wedding days in hearts to keep
Witnessing with them the miracle of birth
As a new generation comes into this world to ponder their true worth
And then now all the ones who are dying from that second wave
All because they chose to stay who dug in deep day after day
To find all of those precious bodies which lie beneath to place in a grave
To have a place to be with them and pray
When, all across our Nation came a call to arms
As all our fearless men and women of the Armed Forces ventured out into harm
Who gave their precious arms and legs,
and their lives in That Full Measure they so gave
For heaven so holds a place,
for all such selflessness souls of the human race.
And Hush little baby don't you cry,
one day up in heaven you will look into your Mother or Fathers eyes
Your parents have become Angels in The Army of Our Lord realize
And when you lay your heads down to rest,
they watch over you each night as you rest
And when you wake you can feel their Angel's breath
So have a good life for them and this our world you will bless
Sadly, time does not heal all
only up in heaven when we hear our loved ones voices call
As twenty years have flown on by,
as we keep asking that question why?
Knowing in our hearts it's the battle of GOOD vrs EVIL therein lies
As we watched the new towers up towards the heavens rise
To build this great memorial of water falls and reflecting pools
Etched upon it all their great names with hearts of love and courage full
To build upon the exact footprint of the towers we fought for this sacred jewel

So we would NEVER FORGET what happened,
on that day when hearts over evil ruled,
For a hallowed place to take all our children by the hand,
to teach them well all about and make them understand
All their precious souls so very bright
Goodness . . . Evil. . . Darkness . . . Light
Those brave hearts whose evil must fight
Who bring the light
As we remember that day when they taught us,
The Darkness is no match for The Light
And standing here this day,
we can but not help to feel all of their precious souls telling us to pray
For Mankind each day,
and NEVER FORGET WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY
And to give thanks,
and remember what the gift of hope to world and America gave
And to try to live a life of courage, faith, hope, and love as they
By the grace of God we will join them up in heaven one fine day
As long as we carry them in our hearts they're not gone
As long as we remember them in our thoughts and prayers they live on
Even twenty years later on this morn
God Rest Their Souls,
and may we try to live lives as caring and selfless as all of those

COMMEMORATING OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALIST RICHARD TORREZ, JR.

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 10, 2021

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Richard Torrez Jr., who earned a silver medal at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.

Born on June 1, 1999, Mr. Torrez was raised in Tulare, California. He developed a love for boxing at a young age, following in the footsteps of his grandfather as well as his father Richard Torrez Sr., who competed in the 1984 Olympic Boxing Trials. As a child, Mr. Torrez was mesmerized by the Olympic games and dreamed of one day winning a medal for the United States.

Mr. Torrez grew up in the boxing gym his father owns and operates, Tulare Athletic Boxing Club. Learning discipline and commitment, he quickly became an elite boxer. Family always remained at his core. His father, to this day, remains one of his coaches.

Graduating from Mission Oak High School in 2017, Mr. Torrez was considered one of the most accomplished students of his graduating class. He was president of the school's chess club and involved in the robotics team. He was also a varsity member of the football, basketball, and track teams. Mr. Torrez capped off his high school career as valedictorian of his graduating class.

Fighting as a super heavyweight, Mr. Torrez placed fifth at the 2019 Elite World Championships, third at the 2019 Pan American Games, and first at the 2020 Boxam Tournament. He has successfully competed in many other tournaments as well, but reaching the Olympics have always been his biggest goal.